

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 SAB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /067 W

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R 132106Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4186

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

PANCANAL

UNCLAS PANAMA 3509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PQ, PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: PANAMA DELEGATION TO SUEZ CANAL OPENING

REF: PANAMA 3201

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN MODERATE ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS BY THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION AT THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL. IN AN INTERVIEW, THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, MARCELINO JAEN, PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION, DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN PANAMA AND EGYPT IN THE INSISTENCE OF BOTH COUNTRIES THAT THEIR GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, A NATURAL RESOURCE, SHOULD BE USED IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. HE CHARGED THAT THE PANAMA CANAL "BY BEING IN FOREIGN HANDS REPRESENTS A DANGER FOR WORLD PEACE AND FOR THE TRANQUILITY OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE."

2. DELEGATION MEMBER, DR. CARLOS PEREZ HERRERA, CALLED THE RE-OPENING AT SUEZ "A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO WORLD PEACE." REFERRING TO THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "GENERAL TORRIJOS WANTS PEACE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE BUT THERE WILL BE NO PEACE IF A JUST TREATY IS NOT CONCLUDED."

3. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO REPORTED JUNE 13 THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SUEZ CANAL, ING. MASHUR
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A. MASHHOUR, HAD SUGGESTED TO THE DELEGATION THAT

PANAMA SEND SOME YOUNG ENGINEERS TO SUEZ IN ORDER THAT
THEY MIGHT RECEIVE TRAINING IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CANAL
OPERATIONS SUCH AS HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING AND THE OPERA-
TION OF CONVOYS. WHAT BENEFIT PANAMA WOULD RECEIVE
FROM TRAINING IN SHIP CONVOY OPERATIONS--AN UNLIKELY
PROCEDURE IN A LOCK CANAL--WAS NOT EXPLAINED IN THE
BRIEF REPORT.

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